Claim Amendments

Claims 1-3 (withdrawn)

Claim 4 (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein comprising the ~~an~~ amino acid sequence of ~~shown in~~ SEQ ID NO:2;

~~(b) a nucleotide sequence that encodes of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;~~

~~(c) a nucleotide sequence that encodes an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;~~

~~(d) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids; and~~

(b) a nucleic acid sequence consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 1;

(c) a nucleic acid sequence consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 3; and

(d) ~~(e)~~ a nucleotide sequence that is ~~the complement of~~ completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(~~d~~ c).

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claims 6-7 (withdrawn)

Claim 8 (original)

Claim 9 (currently amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~5~~ 4.

Claim 10-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (withdrawn)

Claim 13 (currently amended) A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~5~~ 4 in a sample, said method comprising

contacting the sample with an oligonucleotide comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides that hybridizes to said nucleic acid molecule under stringent conditions, wherein the stringent condition is hybridization in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SCC, 0.1% SDS at 50-65°C, and

determining whether the oligonucleotide binds to said nucleic acid molecule in the sample.

Claim 14-21 (withdrawn)

Claim 22-~~23~~ (canceled)

Claim 24 (new). A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering the peptide from the host cell culture.

Claim 25 (new). An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 26 (new). An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

Claim 27 (new). A vector according to claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, virus, and bacteriophage.

Claim 28 (new). A vector according to claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that the protein of SEQ ID NO: 2 may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

Claim 29 (new). A vector according to claim 28, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence